

Message Text

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ACTION EA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-01 PA-01 /005 W

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O R 060900Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3689

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

SECDEF WASHDC

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 12115

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM

USINFO ALSO FOR IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE S/PRS AND EA/P

CAMBODIAN SITUATIONER

1. THE FANK OPERATIONS TO CLEAR THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG NORTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH MADE FURTHER ADVANCES MONDAY AS GOVERNMENT TROOPS RE-OCCUPIED PREK LUANG AND PREK AMPIL. THE GOVERNMENT SOLDIERS ARE REPORTED TUESDAY MORNING TO BE MOVING NORTH TOWARD THE COMMUNIST-OCCUPIED VILLAGE OF PREK KRABAO.

2. ON HIGHWAY 5 LEADING TO BARRAMBANG, FANK 7TH DIVISION UNITS CLEARED ANOTHER 3-KILOMETER STRETCH OF THE ROAD NORTHWARD REACHING THE VILLAGE OF CHHOUK SAR, 6 KILOMETERS NORTH OF SALA LEK PRAM. THE OPERATION COST THE COMMUNISTS 13 KILLED WHILE FANK REPORTED EIGHT SOLDIERS WOUNDED.

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3. IN THE FIRST GROUND ASSAULTS SINCE PERIMETER ENLARGE-

MENT OPERATIONS BEGAN SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AT KOMPONG CHAM, COMMUNIST UNITS LAUNCHED TWO ATTACKS SUNDAY NIGHT. ONE WAS DIRECTED AT GOVERNMENT FORCES TRYING TO TAKE THE HIGH GROUND WEST OF THE AIRFIELD WHILE THE OTHER WAS MADE ALONG HIGHWAY 7 SOUTH OF THE INTERSECTION OF THE HIGHWAY AND THE ROAD TO THE AIRFIELD. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL SHELLING ATTACKS WERE DIRECTED AROUND THE PERIMETER OF THE CITY.

4. IN THE NORTHWESTERN PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF BATTAMBANG, FANK REPORTS THAT A HAND GRENADE EXPLODED SUNDAY MORNING IN THE CENTRAL MARKET KILLING TWO PEOPLE AND WOUNDING 16, ALL CIVILIANS. THE INCIDENT IS UNDER INVESTIGATION.

5. IN THE SOUTHERNMOST PROVINCE OF KAMPOT, GOVERNMENT FORCES CONTINUED TO STRENGTHEN THEIR SUPPLY LINES FROM KAMPOT CITY TO THEIR FORCES ENGAGED IN AN OPERATION AGAINST THE ENEMY NEAR KEP, DESPITE COMMUNIST ATTEMPTS TO INTERDICT THOSE LINES. THE LAST 24 HOURS HAS SEEN NO CHANGE IN THE GROUND SITUATION. AND ELSEWHERE ACROSS THE COUNTRY, SCATTERED SHELLINGS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS ATTACKS WERE REPORTED FROM WIDELY-SCATTERED LOCATIONS WITH LITTLE DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES.

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